

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A message distribution center interposed between a source of a short message and a wireless network including an intended recipient of said short message, said message distribution center comprising:

an SMTP protocol communication channel to receive said short message from said source of said short message;

a plurality of subscriber queues each corresponding to a different subscriber in said wireless network, said short message being placed in at least one of said plurality of subscriber queues before delivery to said wireless network; and

a communication channel to communicate said short message to said wireless network.

2. (original) The message distribution center according to claim 1, wherein:

said communication channel with said wireless network is an RMI protocol communication channel.

3. (original) The message distribution center according to claim 1, wherein:

said communication channel with said wireless network is an SMPP protocol communication channel.

4. (original) The message distribution center according to claim 1, wherein:

each of said plurality of subscriber queues operates in a first in-first out fashion.

5. (original) The message distribution center according to claim 1, further comprising:

a predetermined maximum number of short messages in each of said plurality of subscriber queues.

6. (original) The message distribution center according to claim 1, wherein:

said wireless network is a wireless intelligent network (WIN).

7. (withdrawn) A method of throttling short messages to subscribers in a wireless network, said method comprising:

forwarding a short message to a wireless network only when a receiving wireless device in said wireless network is known outside said wireless network to be online.

8. (withdrawn) The method of throttling short messages to subscribers in a wireless network according to claim 7, further comprising:

automatically deleting an oldest short message in a subscriber queue to make room for a newest received short message.

9. (withdrawn) The method of throttling short messages to subscribers in a wireless network according to claim 7, further comprising:

automatically deleting a short message in a subscriber queue after expiration of a predetermined expiration period.

10. (withdrawn) The method of throttling short messages to subscribers in a wireless network according to claim 7, further comprising:

preventing short message delivery during a predetermined peak period.

11. (withdrawn) The method of throttling short messages to subscribers in a wireless network according to claim 7, wherein:
said wireless network is a wireless intelligent network.

12. (withdrawn) Apparatus for throttling short messages to subscribers in a wireless network, comprising:

means for forwarding a short message to a wireless network only when a receiving wireless device in said wireless network is known outside said wireless network to be online.

13. (withdrawn) The apparatus for throttling short messages to subscribers in a wireless network according to claim 12, further comprising:

means for automatically deleting an oldest short message in a subscriber queue to make room for a newest received short message.

14. (withdrawn) The apparatus for throttling short messages to subscribers in a wireless network according to claim 12, further comprising:

means for automatically deleting a short message in a subscriber queue after expiration of a predetermined expiration period.

15. (withdrawn) The apparatus for throttling short messages to subscribers in a wireless network according to claim 12, further comprising:

means for preventing short message delivery during a predetermined peak period.

16. (withdrawn) The apparatus for throttling short messages to subscribers in a wireless network according to claim 12, wherein:

said wireless network is a wireless intelligent network.

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17. (previously presented) A method of message distribution between a source of a short message and a wireless network including an intended recipient of said short message, said method of message distribution comprising:

receiving said short message from said source of said short message utilizing an SMTP protocol communication channel;

placing said short message in at least one of a plurality of subscriber queues before delivery to said wireless network, said plurality of subscriber queues each corresponding to a different subscriber in said wireless network; and

communicating said short message to said wireless network utilizing a communication channel.

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18. (previously presented) The method of message distribution according to claim 17, wherein:

said communication channel with said wireless network is an RMI protocol communication channel.

19. (previously presented) The method of message distribution according to claim 17, wherein:

said communication channel with said wireless network is an SMPP protocol communication channel.

20. (previously presented) The method of message distribution according to claim 17, wherein:

each of said plurality of subscriber queues operates in a first in-first out fashion.

21. (previously presented) The method of message distribution according to claim 17, further comprising:

placing a predetermined maximum number of short messages in each of said plurality of subscriber queues.

22. (previously presented) The method of message distribution according to claim 17, wherein:

said wireless network is a wireless intelligent network (WIN).

23. (previously presented) An apparatus for message distribution between a source of a short message and a wireless network including an intended recipient of said short message, said apparatus for message distribution comprising:

means for receiving said short message from said source of said short message utilizing an SMTP protocol communication channel;

means for placing said short message in at least one of a plurality of subscriber queues before delivery to said wireless network, said plurality of subscriber queues each corresponding to a different subscriber in said wireless network; and

means for communicating said short message to said wireless network utilizing a communication channel.

24. (previously presented) The apparatus for message distribution according to claim 23, wherein:

said communication channel with said wireless network is an RMI protocol communication channel.

25. (previously presented) The apparatus for message distribution according to claim 23, wherein:

said communication channel with said wireless network is an SMPP protocol communication channel.

26. (previously presented) The apparatus for message distribution according to claim 23, wherein:

each of said plurality of subscriber queues operates in a first in-first out fashion.

27. (previously presented) The apparatus for message distribution according to claim 23, further comprising:

placing a predetermined maximum number of short messages in each of said plurality of subscriber queues.

28. (previously presented) The apparatus for message distribution according to claim 23, wherein:

said wireless network is a wireless intelligent network (WIN).
